(b) and (c) As per the guidelines circulated by the Planning Commission for implementation of PMGY during 2002-03, the State Governments themselves have been given freedom and flexibility to decide not only the allocation (within their overall allocation) for Additional Central Assistance (ACA) among the six components of PMGY including rural. Shelter, but also the manner of utilisation of these funds as per the guidelines of either their own State Schemes or any Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the specific sectors. It is entirely for the State Government of Himachal Pradesh to take appropriate action on this proposal.

Missile Defence System

*177. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a meeting of the Indo-US defence policy group on May 23, 2002, in New Delhi, India and the United States moved closer on the issue of Missile Defence System;

(b) if so, the precise identity of views achieved in this regard, indicating the stand taken by each side; and

(c) the agreement on Missile Defence system, if any, reached between the two sides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) During the Indo-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) meeting in Washington from 20—23 May, 2002, the US side gave a briefing on missile defence concepts. In the ensuing exchange of views, India expressed its positive interest in the various dimensions of missile defence while the US side described its policy perspecitve and plans concerning diverse elements of missile defence architecture. The two sides agreed to continue to exchange views on the subject, including by organising workshops and by conducting requirements analyses. The objectives of the DPG meeting did not include reaching identity of views or any agreement on the subject between the two sides.